

**REMARKS**


Applicant elects to cancel claims 1-6 and 13-18 without traverse.

In the present Restriction Requirement, the Examiner restricts claims 1-18 into three groups or inventions, e.g., Group I encompassing claims 1-6 drawn to a protective membrane equipped composite electrolyte (classified in Class 252, Subclass 62.2); Group II encompassing claims 7-12 drawn to a fuel cell comprising specific components (classified in Class 429, Subclass 46); and Group III encompassing claims 13-18 which is drawn to methods for producing a protective membrane-equipped composite electrolyte (classified in Class 427, Subclass 115). With regard to Group III, the Examiner requires a further election between the invention of Species 1 (claims 13-15) and Species 2 (claims 16-18). Applicant hereby elects to pursue the Group II set of claims (e.g., claims 7-12).

Applicant deems this Response to be fully responsive to the Office Action, and reiterates the election of the Group II invention. If further issues regarding the restriction persist, the Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: **June 19, 2003**